

Lagarosiphon major (African elodea,
oxygen weed)
Hydrocharitaceae (Frog's-bit Family)



Description and Biology

- Submersed, rooted, aquatic plant growing up to 20 feet long and forming think mats at the surface.
- Greatly recurved (curved downward), stiff, linear leaves are up to 1 inch long and 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch wide and occur in alternate spirals along the stem.
- Tiny, transparent to white or pinkish flowers have 3 petals and are on a long filament-like stem. Flowers float on the surface of the water.



Current Status

A native of southern Africa, this plant is now found in New Zealand and many parts of Europe. If it is introduced to the United States, the consequences may be as dire as the problems caused by *H. verticillata*, another member of the Hydrocharitaceae family. It is listed as a federal noxious weed and is also listed as a Class A state noxious weed in North Carolina. Anyone who suspects a potential infestation should report it to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Weed Specialist at 1-800-206-9333.

Lagarosiphon major photography by Rohan Wells, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Bugwood.org,